

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th October 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 1st October has the following:—

The European Powers in China.

The European Powers are discussing the Chinese question and the best means of punishing the Boxers. They are trying to settle the conditions on which they are to occupy China, and also to decide the question whether any limitations should be imposed on the powers exercised by the Chinese Emperor. A monarch, who fails to act according to the spirit of the time, however powerful he may be, is sure to be caught like a bird in the snare of the European Powers. It was, in consequence of labouring under such disadvantages, that the mighty Hindu Empire disappeared, and the names of the great Hindu kings have become matter of history. The Emperor of China also will have to share the fate of these Hindu sovereigns and bid farewell to his kingdom, his nationality, and even his religion. Those who, when peace reigns, waste their time in vain pursuits and fully depend upon the promises and compacts made by foreigners, are sure to receive such punishment. The Persians ought to rise from their sleep and make preparations against future troubles; because these European tigers, after finishing their work of destruction in the game preserves of the Far East, will find no other game weaker than ourselves. By God, we are not telling you fables, but things within our personal experience. Turn to history, study the map of the world, and count the countries newly conquered by the Europeans. Up to this moment, it is thought that the rivalry among the European Powers is a safeguard against the disturbance of the peace of the Asiatics. Their friendly co-operation in China has given a rude shock to this belief, and our long-cherished hope has vanished into thin air. History tells us that such union among the European Powers as is displayed in connection with China was never witnessed before. This union has been brought about by the diplomatic influence exercised by the Peace Congress at The Hague. The ignorant Asiatic rulers thought that, if they sent representatives to that Congress, they would have no further trouble. It is known that China sent her representative to the Congress. But she did not know that this Congress was only a trick to be played against her, and that its object was to settle any quarrel that might arise among the Powers in dividing China. In our boyhood, we used to laugh when we heard the fable of the cat assuming a pious guise, in order that he might kill countless rats. The Peace Congress is, so to say, a practical illustration of this fable. Our forefathers invented this fable, with the view that it might teach us a lesson for our future guidance in the world.

Three different opinions are held by Asiatic sovereigns regarding their relation with the European Powers. In the opinion of some, the rivalry among European Powers is a source of security to them; while others hold that they ought to be on friendly terms with them by granting them some concession. Such concessions, however, are sure to make their enemies stronger at their own expense. Asiatic rulers of this class place great confidence in compacts made by the European Powers. There is, however, a third class of Asiatic rulers who think it advisable to be always hostile to the European Powers. To tell the truth, all these three opinions are wrong. Those who cannot shape their conduct according to the needs of the time are sure to be ruined. Neither friendship nor enmity with the European Powers will be of any help to them. There is rivalry among the European Powers so long as their personal interests are concerned, but as against the poor Asiatics they are united. They will not shed one another's blood or spend a farthing for our sake. If we, Persians, do not follow in the footsteps of Japan, we are sure to lose our power sooner, and in a much more deplorable manner than China. We ought to spread in our country a knowledge of the modern arts and sciences. We ought to establish peace and concord in our country by introducing the mild rule of the law in the place of despotism. We ought to promote the manufacturers of our country. We ought to increase our military power. These are the things upon which our national existence depends. The Franks, seeing that the Chinese have not the power to resist them and are quite

ROZNAAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN,
Oct. 1st, 1900.

helpless, are outwardly proposing to establish peace and order in China, but are in reality trying to pick a quarrel with China in order to aggrandise their own selfish interests. Their soldiers are, under the pretext of saving the native Christians and collecting provisions, conquering one province or another. The best part of the joke is that the European papers are telling us so many stories about the slaughter of the native Christians that it seems that their number must exceed a million, although, before the Japano-Chinese war, not a single native Christian was heard of in China. The European papers are telling all these stories simply with the object of justifying the shameful acts of cruelty which the Powers are committing in China. It is true that the Christian missionaries have been trying their best these few years to propagate Christianity in China, and Lord Salisbury also says that the present disturbance in China is due to the conduct of the missionaries; but it is obvious that the missionaries did this simply to conceal the real motive of the European Powers. Almost all the European ministers attribute the present disturbance in China to the conduct of the Christian missionaries, but a man with a grain of political sagacity will say that the Christian missionaries are the first soldiers for the European conquest of China. The European Powers think it improper to interfere in the affairs of a foreign people without some pretext, and there can be no better pretext than this missionary crisis in China. Under the cloak of religion, missionaries play a political part in foreign countries. Bravo Christian missionaries! Bravo! You are well versed in the art of carrying on political intrigues. After the Japano-Chinese war, all the European Powers were anxious to conquer China, and now that is done. Let it be granted that the Chinese are now making war with the Christians. After the Japano-Chinese war, Germany, England, Russia, Italy and even Belgium extorted concessions from China. For what fault of the Chinese did they do so? Their fault was that they were weak and the Europeans were strong. As for the future of China, it has been said that China will be divided among the Powers, and that the powers of the Emperor of China will be curtailed, so that he may not raise his hand against Europe. After this task has been accomplished, the Chinese wall will be a danger instead of being a protection to the Celestials. Twenty years hence the Chinese Empire will be no more. It will share the fate of India and other dependencies of the European Powers.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABUL
MATEEN,
Oct. 1st, 1900.

2. The same paper makes the following extract from the *Roznama-i-Ittila*.

The Christian missionary in the Soudan.

Oh, if we could know what the European Powers intend to do with us! Do they not intend to make us unbelievers and immoral so that we may become one another's enemies, and our enmity may become stronger, and stronger thereby rendering us weaker and weaker, so that lethargy may reign supreme among us, and the Europeans, taking advantage of our lethargy, may annihilate us and make us their dependants? Is it not time for the Musalmans to awake and see what our enemies are doing and try to avert the danger which may befall us on account of the trickeries of the Franks of Europe? The Franks of Europe have sent Christian missionaries as far as the Soudan. As the people of the Soudan are very simple and have not hitherto come into contact with the civilized people of Europe, most probably they will soon fall into the snares of the missionaries. It is a regret that the Musalmans are letting a golden opportunity slip out of their hands. They have nothing but danger all around them. It is the bounden duty of Egypt to direct its attention to the movements of these missionaries, who are roaming all over Egypt with the view of preaching Christianity, and to send a number of *alims* close behind these missionaries to enable the Soudanese to see through the stratagem with which Christianity is preached. The Soudanese, being ignorant, are sure to answer to the call of the first man who will bring to them anything in the shape of religion.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABUL
MATEEN.

The same paper is glad to hear that the European statesmen, who left no stone unturned to persuade the Shah, during

The Shah in Europe.

his tour in Europe, to give them some concessions in Persia, have failed in their attempt. All the demonstrations in honour of the Shah were made with the object of extorting concessions from him.

The same paper is glad that Colonel Meade has been appointed Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. By long service in India, he has become thoroughly acquainted with the manners and customs of Asia. It is, therefore, hoped that he will do good in his present employment.

ROHAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABUL
MATHEW,
Oct. 1st, 1900.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

Al Punch [Bankipore] of the 28th September has the following :—

Hindi and Urdu in the North-Western Provinces.

It is a regret that Hindi has become the leading vernacular in the courts of Bihar, and the North-Western Provinces. This being the case, the Musalmans, whose vernacular is Urdu, find themselves at a great disadvantage. Besides, the Urdu alphabet contains letters which the Hindi alphabet does not represent. Urdu words containing such letters cannot, therefore, be properly written in Hindi. It is therefore difficult to understand why the Government has substituted Hindi for Urdu.

AL PUNCH,
Sept. 28th, 1900.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 26th September complains of the bad condition of many roads within the Kalna Municipality

The Kalna Municipality in the Burdwan district.

in the Burdwan district. The Baruipara road has been badly damaged in several places and can be used only with great difficulty by carts and other vehicles. Money is sanctioned every year for the repair of roads, but the roads are never repaired.

In Ward No. 2, many streets were not lighted during the last dark half of the month.

The municipality served notices requiring the residents to remove all jungle from their premises. Those who have not done this are being prosecuted and fined Rs. 10 each. This is causing hardship to the poor residents. The cutting down of jungle, which leads to the rotting of vegetable matter, is also likely to increase the virulence of malaria.

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1900.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 13th October, 1900.

